

ARTS COUNCIL OF KERN



The Arts Council of Kern, based in the county seat of Bakersfield, has only a few full-time staff members—but their reach and impact are broad and deep because of partnerships, collaborations, and contracts for arts services. They provide access, advocacy and education in the arts to just under one million residents and the visitors of Kern County.

ARTISTS IN CARROT FIELDS, HOSPITALS AND TRAILER PARKS

The Arts Council of Kern takes seriously the charge to provide access and arts education for those unable to participate due to illness, disability, poverty, and time or distance constraints. They have been known to place artists in carrot fields, migrant camps,



hockey games, shopping areas, streets fairs, farmers' markets and trailer parks. How is all of this possible? They collaborate, partner, and contract to bring the arts to locations and people around Kern. They even

take the arts bedside to patients at San Joaquin Community Hospital and to at-risk youth in after-school programs including: Stop the Violence and Police Activities League (PAL) and others.

The Arts Council of Kern has brought arts to the homeless and theater to foster care children. Additionally, they have a long-running program for arts education in many schools, including using arts to teach literacy with the newest partner: Young Audiences Arts for Learning (A4L). This partnership kicked off with teaching an A4L unit with one of the Arts Council's longest running partners, KCSOS Migrant Education.

MIGRANT EDUCATION

The Migrant Ed programs often combine arts and other core curriculum subject matters. In this program, the Arts Council has documented increased scores in math

and reading, but more importantly they see kids mixing paints - kids that didn't know that mixing blue and yellow make

green, and that trees don't have to look like lollipops! They created ZooARTs at the local zoo in partnership with the Superintendent of Schools, CALM (the zoo) and Migrant Ed. This project combined storytelling, music and visual arts with science. Another program created for Migrant Education is the CSUB Summer Arts Jam, a dynamic partnership with CSU Bakersfield to provide a two-week on-campus arts intensive program of arts with math and science. Established in 2008, Summer Arts Jam is, in effect, a boot camp for the arts for middle school students from under-



served Title I schools in Kern County. The program is delivered by a combination of Arts Council professional artists and CSUB arts faculty in the areas of visual art, music and theatre. This combination proved to be far more powerful than they imagined.



The culminating event is an arts festival with a showing of the students' work in the Todd Madigan Gallery and a theater and music performance in the adjacent 500-seat Dore Theater on the CSUB campus. Students and their parents, along with faculty and Arts Council and CSUB staff, thoroughly enjoy this event. After attending the event, the Dean of Humanities at the university proclaimed her amazement at the growth of the students and her ongoing support for the continued partnership.

ARTISTS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

The beginning of one of most successful collaborations for the Arts Council of Kern began with a two week Migrant education film project with filmmaker Joey Travolta that has grown into three



workshops, three times a year for artists with developmental disabilities. This partnership with Kern Regional Center, the ABLE program of the Kern High School District and Kern River Valley Art Association has produced a model film arts vocational

program with international acclaim. Students and teachers from Korea are now attending the summer film camp to be able to replicate the program there. Students with disabilities find their voices and express their talents to create documentaries and films. Through this process lives have changed, and families cry with pride at a film premiere. A surprising offshoot of the program is the Outside In program for visual artists with autism, Asperger's syndrome and other developmental disabilities. The artists attend visual arts workshops twice each week and show and sell their work in one of the ACK galleries.

BEST OF KERN CONCERT TOUR

The Arts Council is proud of the musicians of Kern and is assisting them as they seek to broaden and deepen audience participation through the Best of Kern Concert Tour with funding from the California Arts Council Department of Justice Music Presenting Grant and The James Irvine Foundation. The tour couldn't happen without these partnerships with venues, music producers, recording studios and in-kind media support. The ACK also grants funds and provides technical training, including tech arts in social media (Facebook) and Web site development for local artists and arts organizations.



SYNERGY

Executive Director, Jeanette Richardson Parks, says, "One of the most rewarding and amazing outcomes of all of our collaborations is the synergy that has been created—the positive reputation within the community that continues to draw non-arts-related business and organizations to us. It is now common for others to contact us requesting us to create programs for them—to partner with them to integrate the arts into their programs. That's the best feeling of all!"

All photos by Arts Council of Kern

The Arts Council of Kern receives funding from the California Arts Council's [State-Local Partnership Program](#), which supports county arts councils. For additional information on these programs check www.cac.ca.gov or contact the Program Specialist directly: Rob Lautz, State-Local Partnership Program, rlautz@cac.ca.gov.

